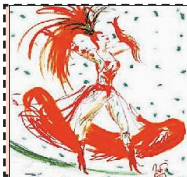


Mubarak calls out
army ... *pg 2*



Enjoy Aruba's
57th carnival

The Ukraine Euro 2012 host
role in jeopardy *pg 14*

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Aruba to Obtain Blue Flag Beach Certification Before End of Year



Beach at Mangel Halto



Representatives of the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) were present on Aruba last week. FEE is an international organization that evaluates and decides which beaches can be certified with the Blue Flag seal. Furthermore, this organization is the only one recognized by the United Nations who can issue the Blue Flag Certification.

Aruba has been working towards this goal for some

years now, the goal of being Blue Flag certified. Such a distinction will make our destination even more attractive to our visitors and open other possibilities for diversification of our tourism.

Blue Flag Certification is a seal of quality which indicates that the beach in question complies with different norms of quality, such as, the quality of the water, adequate infrastructure, handicap friendly and an adequate se-

curity system.

The FEE representatives visited three of our beaches, together with Minister of Tourism Oduber, and Marine Park Foundation staff. The purpose of their visit was to ascertain the possibilities and ways that Aruba can achieve Blue Flag certification. The areas visited were: Arashi, Mangel Halto and Baby Beach.

Continued on page 5

Parliament motion to save citizens 45% on electricity



During their last meeting convened on December 30, 2010, the Aruba Parliament passed a motion that could result in an enormous benefit with respect to the general cost of living of our people. The motion included such matters as the reduction of import duties on electronic devices, for example, air conditioners and refrigerators allowing citizens to renew their equipment with more efficient equipment. This will enable them to have a reduction of between 30 and 60 % on electrical consumption. Another item proposed was to introduce a so called "energieinvesteringsaftrek," (a tax deduction for energy investments) such as exits in the Netherlands. Such a tax deduction would enable a business owner to reduce his high electric cost, which usually runs around 10 thousand florins monthly, by purchasing more efficient cooling equipment. This, in turn would enable the business owner to reduce his prices on consumer products.

This will benefit everyone tremendously. By paying less for electricity and other commodities, each citizen would have more spending money

for their family, according to Parliamentarian Donny Rasmijn.

During the Platts Caribbean Energy Seminar in Miami, Mr. Luis Bernal-Jimenez, Executive Director of the Department of Energy of Puerto Rico, gave a presentation concerning an identical situation that is being implemented in Puerto Rico.

Parliamentarians Donny Rasmijn and Andin Bikker were in attendance at this seminar.

The energy laws have already been changed in Puerto Rico and they have begun implementing the changes which will benefit the people of Puerto Rico. They expect a reduction of 45% in their energy costs and at the same time will be creating employment for energy controllers and inspectors of small contractors.

In the ensuing weeks Donny Rasmijn will share more about the results of this seminar and especially of the Puerto Rican project which can serve as an example how the Aruba Parliamentary motion presented could benefit Aruba.

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Mandela goes home after hospital treatment

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) – Former South Africa president Nelson Mandela returned home after two days of successful hospital treatment for breathing difficulties where he resolutely laughed and joked with visitors.

The country's surgeon general told reporters that the anti-apartheid hero had suffered an acute respiratory infection but was now sufficiently well to be treated at home, ending considerable concern about his health.

"Dr Mandela is in high spirits. For a 92-year-old he surprises us on a daily basis with his powers of recovery," said Vejaynand Ramlakan, who leads the team of military doctors assigned to care for the former resistance leader.

Scores of neighbours and well-wishers gathered for his arrival but failed to catch a glimpse of the country's revered elder statesman.

"Our daddy is back," said Lina Phalane, a 67-year-old maid who works in the same street. "Please God, give him some more days to live with us," she said.

"We should remain calm and continue with our prayers that Madiba (Mandela's clan name) will be with us to celebrate his 93rd birthday... and beyond," said Vice President Kgalema Motlanthe.

Mandela's condition has gripped the nation, with media surrounding the hospital amid tight security that saw police checking all visitors' cars to ensure no journalists were hiding in the boot.



Nelson Mandela by
Sue Dickinson

In Mandela's home village of Qunu, 870 kilometres (540 miles) south of Johannesburg, locals huddled around television screens to hear the latest news.

The Nelson Mandela Foundation, established to continue his charitable work after he withdrew from public life in 2004, said that Madiba was undergoing "routine tests" but made no further comment.

Mandela emerged from incarceration 21 years ago and went on to lead the country's transition from white minority rule to democracy.

After being elected as president in 1994, he defied the threat of civil war to lead a process of reconciliation in a country long divided against itself.

His public appearances have become increasingly rare since retirement in 2004, the last such outing being at the closing ceremony of the 2010 FIFA World Cup in Johannesburg in July.

French court upholds gay marriage ban

PARIS (AFP) – The French constitutional court on upheld the country's gay marriage ban, saying it was in keeping with the constitution. The court made the ruling in response to a bid by a lesbian couple, who have four chil-

dren, to marry after spending 10 years in a PACS, or civil union.

Several of France's European Union fellow member states, including Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands, have legalised homosexual marriage.

Mubarak calls out army as protesters go on rampage

CAIRO (AFP) – Egypt's embattled President Hosni Mubarak called out the army and declared a curfew in key cities as tens of thousands of protesters rampaged through the streets demanding an end to his three decades in power.

With streetbattles raging, key allies the United States, Britain and Germany expressed concern about the violence, with Britain noting that the protesters had "legitimate grievances."

But thousands ignored a 6:00 pm (1600 GMT) to 7:00 am curfew in Cairo, Alexandria and Suez announced by state television, with many protesters calling on patrolling soldiers to join them.

"The army and the people, together!" protesters chanted

in front of the Egyptian television building.

"Today is different: all Egyptians are together, the rich and the poor, to get Mubarak out," shouted one protester in downtown Cairo.

"Where is the president!" screamed another man. "We need freedom and justice!"

Protesters set fire to the headquarters of the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) in Cairo.

The demonstrations, inspired by events in Tunisia, have swelled into the largest uprising in Egypt in the three decades of Mubarak's rule, sending shock waves across the region.

Internet connections were cut across Egypt, while mobile phone signals were patchy and text messages inoperative, af-

fecting the ability of protesters to communicate with each other.

Concerns were reflected in the financial world as well, with Fitch ratings agency saying it had revised its ratings outlook for Egypt to negative.

Mubarak, aged 82 and said to be in poor health, has not been seen publicly since the unrest erupted. However, the culture ministry has said he is to make an appearance on week-end at the opening of the annual Cairo book fair.

Leading dissident Mohamed ElBaradei, who has said he would be prepared to lead a transitional authority if he were asked, was among a crowd of around 2,000 targeted by police and was forced to take refuge inside a Cairo mosque.

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Census Bureau closed on Wednesday afternoons



ORANJESTAD -- Aruba's Civil Registry and Census Bureau is one of the most important institutions with respect to registration and documentation of our citizens. This Bureau is charged with the reliable and correct registration of every citizen on the island. Practically every governmental department as well as other private concerns, such as banks and lawyers depend and trust the official information available from our Census Bureau.

The government, in keeping with the Plan Nacional di Seguridad (National Security Plan), and the Fondo Desaroyo Aruba (Aruba's Development Fund), is putting the accent on the improvement of the services of the various projects of dire importance to Aruba.

The government has begun work on modernizing the basic administration of the census of all citizens residing on the island. Other aspects of concern for upgrading are the public waiting area, Q-flow, the digitalizing of documents, and the remodeling of the Census

Office.

The government is also intent on improving the efficiency and quality of the service as well as on the professionalism of all Census employees. This, the government believes can be done through offering specific courses with particular relevance to their daily jobs.

In this context, during the implementation period, our clients and the general public must be aware that as of Wednesday February 2nd, the Census Bureau will be closed to the general public during the afternoon hours on Wednesdays.

Without the cooperation of the general public it would be impossible to realize the projects to be executed. The head of the Civil Registry and Census and the Office of the Minister of General Public Affairs, the Bureau of Immigration, and the Plan Nacional di Seguridad is kindly requesting that each citizen take careful note of the announcement that henceforth, the Census Bureau will be closed on Wednesday afternoons.

Auxiliary Census Offices Provide Basic Services

ORANJESTAD -- During the past year, 2010, the Census Bureau expanded her services to the community by utilizing all government offices in every district. Various census documents are obtainable at these auxiliary offices. Among the documents available are, birth certificates, and residency declarations.

Currently there is a high demand for these documents because of the recently introduced stipend allowance (reparatietoeslag). Employers are requiring these docu-

ments from their employees, who are flocking in droves to the Census Bureau in Oranjestad to get the required documents. The crowds at this office is unnecessary while citizens could very well get these same documents at one of the auxiliary offices in San Nicolaas, Savaneta, Santa Cruz, Paradera and Noord.

The Census Bureau kindly requests everyone to make use of the services in the districts and so doing avoid the long waiting lines in the Oranjestad office.



You Can 'Lick' Perfectionism with 4 Easy Steps

If you talk to my secretary, she would tell you that I was a perfectionist. If I wrote a letter, it had to be just perfect, and that meant that it would often get rewritten and corrected and re-corrected umpteen times before she would just take it from me and seal it up and send it out.

Well, I am still somewhat perfectionistic, but I have learned to create a healthy balance in most things I do now.

Are you a perfectionist? Is the need for other people's approval a driving force in all that you do? Do you feel like nothing is ever good enough?

Don't feel too bad just yet, because some aspects of being a perfectionist are healthy. However, feeling the obsessive need to be perfect with everything can negatively affect our self-esteem and livelihood. Although feeling like we're not good enough may be a familiar feeling, feeling unworthy and never good enough can be unhealthy as a lifestyle and will seriously hinder your success.

Perfectionism, it is believed, originates from our family of origin and evolves into the habitual need to be perfect all the time. The need to be perfect motivates us to work endless hours at the expense of our relationships. We lose sleep and are on edge when things don't turn out as expected. We feel anxious and out of control. We get frustrated and upset at the little things in life.

If you're a perfectionist, it's easy to over focus on outcomes... how things turn out as opposed to viewing life as a journey with valuable life lessons to learn along the way. We cannot envision a negative outcome or any shortfalls.

When we're perfectionists, we can never really feel good about ourselves because we're chasing the impossible. You know, I learned that, as human beings, it is simply impossible to be perfect simply because we are so prone to make mistakes. The more we try to create perfect out-

comes by attempting perfection, the more we're fighting an uphill battle that can't be won. Simple mistakes become emotional catastrophes and a measure of your self-worth. One small failure becomes the end of the world, instead of a simple mistake. I remember so well my own dilemmas in this realm.

When I finally learned to let go of my perfectionism, it was like setting aside an enormous load off my back. I still remember the feeling when I decided to just do my very best and to not expect to be perfect....wow, it was so relieving. I discovered how much more creative I had be-

validation

- My Inability to accept things as they are

- My concept that nothing is ever good enough

Step 2: Know the difference between healthy and unhealthy perfectionism.

Some perfectionism is very good (and I have held on to those!). Healthy perfectionism gives me the urge to really do my utmost and to always strive for the best in me. So, you see, not all perfectionism is bad. If you have none, you may end up doing poor work, or inferior work. However, having said that; it is crucial that you recognize the difference between



perfectionism

come as a result, and how much more productive I became. I could get so much more done in a lot less time!

Let me give you some of the steps to take to transform unhealthy perfectionism into healthy self-improvement. In this article I will cover two of the four steps and in next article I will present the remaining two steps. So, look out for the next Morning News edition for the follow up on this article.

First Step: Get to know the characteristics of negative perfectionism. You should be able to recognize them:

- My Need for control
- My Need to prove how worthy I am
- My incessant concerned with what others think
- My Need for other people's approval
- My Need for external

healthy and unhealthy perfectionism. You know it is unhealthy when it begins to wear you down, when it takes more of your time than it ought to, when you can't put it down and send it out (like my letters). You know it is unhealthy when it engulfs your entire focus.

Here are some healthy and positive attitudes:

- Striving for excellence; to do your very best no matter what

- Desire to do the best you can with everything you do

- Having an aspiration to reach realistic goals

Look out for Monday's Morning News for steps 3 and 4.

If this was helpful, I would love to hear from you at the-morningnewsaruba@gmail.com

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Dutch MPs give Afghan mission go-ahead



Soldiers patrolling the streets of Afghanistan

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands -- After two days of heated debate, a slim majority of Dutch MPs have voted in favour of sending a police training mission to Afghanistan.

The cabinet decision to send a team to train thousands of Afghan police officers came nearly a year after the last government collapsed in a dispute over extending military deployment in the war-torn country.

Conservative Prime Minister Mark Rutte's coalition government was forced to make concessions to get the proposal pushed through parliament. Geert Wilders' anti-Islam PVV party – on which the government depends for a parliamentary majority – opposed the Dutch mission in Afghanistan.

Green Left particularly

struggled with the course it should take, surprising its voters in the end by supporting the mission. The party's new leader Jolande Sap demanded a written guarantee from Kabul that police trained by the Dutch would not be used in any military action.

Prime Minister Rutte assuaged Green Left's fears and said that he "would propose to end the mission... if it transpires that people are not keeping to the agreement." One Green Left MP voted against the mission and many voters have voiced their anger with the party on social media.

The Christian Union and the Democrat Party D66 also voted in favour of the mission after receiving enough assurances from the cabinet that the mission had a civil rather than a military nature.

Meanwhile, Job Cohen's Labour party submitted a motion to parliament to oppose the Afghan mission and was supported by the Socialist Party.

The new Dutch mission will consist of 545 personnel in Kabul and the northern province of Kunduz, including 225 police trainers and military personnel providing medical and logistics support. Four F16 fighter jets to find roadside bombs and boost security on the ground will fall completely under Dutch command.

In the previous mission - which claimed the lives of 24 Dutch soldiers - some 1,950 troops were sent as part of the ISAF force, mainly in the central Uruzgan province. The deployment lasted four years and ended last August.

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Beauty in Aruba: Red & Gold !

by Roland Peterson

As the instinct crept in his little system
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 flew from tree to tree
 No time for flowers
 this morning

Then suddenly he sees her
 He ruffles the red
 feathers on his head
 They shine in the sun
 rays
 He then flies to her

Elegantly he makes his
 bow with the
 Red Carnation on his
 head
 She pecks his Carnation
 The sign is right

They mate in the rays
 Now little Donny feels
 like Donald Dornasol
 The Great Conqueror
 for the rest of days



Little Donny Dornasol
 Photo: Drs. Greg Peterson

Aruba to obtain Blue Flag Beach certification . . .

Continued from page 1

Oduber is convinced that this certification is extremely important in view of his vision for an overall better Aruba product. One of Aruba's primary attractions is our beaches, hence to achieve such a certification will certify that the quality of our beaches has been upgraded and is of the highest standard. This will be beneficial not only to our visitors, but also to all our citizens.

Blue Flag certification will contribute to the marketing and diversification efforts of our tourism industry. Blue Flag is a very well known concept in Europe, and it is no secret that many travelers often seek out destinations with this distinction when planning where to go for their vacation. Many, even young people, today are looking for 'eco-friendly,' and 'handicap friendly' destinations.

Following the visits by the Blue Flag representatives, the minister sat down together with them and Aruba Marine Park to hear the recommen-



Baby Beach

dations of the group. According to the group, the one beach that could be certified this year, after the planned investment there, is the Mangel Halto beach. The minister could concur with the group and indicated that shortly work will be commenced at this location with funds allocated by the FDA (Aruba De-

velopment Fund).

Providing all goes well, before the end of this year we will accomplish yet another historic milestone when for the first time in Aruba one of our beaches will be Blue Flag certified. This, says the minister, will be the first in a series of other certifications.

Sci-Tech



The Sanho HyperDrive, the world's first and only iPad compatible USB hard drive is displayed in the Sanho booth during Macworld 2011 at the Moscone Center on January 27, 2011 in San Francisco, California.

Facebook for Android Update Adds Deals, Promises Bug Fixes



Facebook released an update to its Android app Friday, which adds the social-networking site's Deals feature.

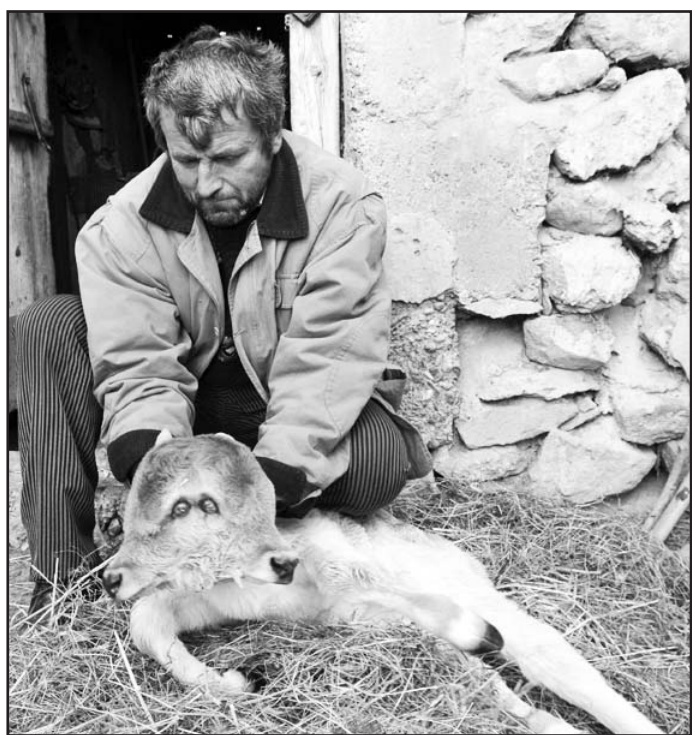
"Everybody loves a deal. Now you can get access to Facebook Deals with the new Facebook for Android v1.5.1 - available free from the Android Market today," Face-

book said in a statement.

Facebook Deals was unveiled in November on iOS. It allows mobile users to find discounts at nearby stores in four categories: individual, loyalty, friend, and charity. It launched with 22 partners, and will be opened to 20,000 small businesses.

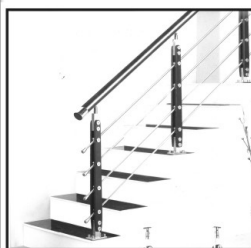
Facebook also promised fixes for "a number of bugs," though some commentors on the Facebook for Android Facebook page noted that their mobile Facebook experience was still a bit buggy.

For more details, see PCMag's hands-on with Facebook Deals.



Hakob Avetyan holds a two-headed calf in the Armenian village of Sotk, on January 28, 2011. The two-headed calf was born on January 25 in the Avetyans' cow house. Two-headed people and animals, though rare, have long been known to exist and documented. AFP PHOTO

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Fitted with heart monitors and motion sensors the Achatina snails monitor on January 27, 2011 pollution from a incinerator that burns sewage residue at the Vodokanal state utilities company on the outskirts of Saint Petersburg. The waterworks is using six snails as an innovative way to monitor pollution from the incinerator. The Achatina snails, which reach 20 centimeters in length and are widespread in Sub-Saharan Africa, were chosen because "they have lungs and breathe air like humans," the company said. AFP PHOTO

Great Pyramid has two secret chambers: French architect

PARIS (AFP) -- A French architect campaigning for a new exploration of the 4,500-year-old Great Pyramid of Giza said this past week that the edifice may contain two chambers housing funereal furniture.

Jean-Pierre Houdin -- who was rebuffed three years ago by Egypt in his appeal for a probe into how the Pyramid was built -- said 3-D simulation and data from a US egyptologist, Bob Brier, pointed to two secret chambers in the heart of the structure.

The rooms would have housed furniture for use in the afterlife by the pharaoh Khufu, also known as Cheops in Greek, he told a press conference.

"I am convinced there are antechambers in this pyramid. What I want is to find them," he said.

In March 2007, Houdin advanced the theory that the



Great Pyramid had been built inside-out using an internal spiral ramp, as opposed to an external ramp as had long been suggested.

The idea was nixed by Egypt's antiquities department. A Canadian team from Laval University in Quebec will seek permission this year to carry out thermal imaging from outside the Pyramid to explore the theory, Houdin said.

Houdin said a pointer to

the antechambers came from the existence of such rooms in the pyramid of Snefru, Khufu's father. It was possible a similar design was retained for the Great Pyramid.

In addition, blocks in the northern wall of the king's chamber in the Great Pyramid indicate an overlooked passage which led to the hypothesised chambers and also enabled the funeral party to exit, he added.

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Gates, Britain give 130 million dollars to fight polio



DAVOS, Switzerland (AFP) – Internet billionaire Bill Gates and British Prime Minister David Cameron gave 130 million dollars between them to help developing countries eradicate polio.

"We need to take these next two years, to intensify the campaign. It's an expensive campaign," Gates told the World Economic Forum in Davos.

"It costs about a billion a year to buy the drugs, to get the vaccines out there, to find the children. Our foundation is adding 100 million today to the polio campaign," the billionaire added, to applause.

Meanwhile, Cameron said that Britain would double its contribution to the campaign "from 30 million to 60 million dollars" despite his

pledge to cut his government's overall spending dramatically.

"I think it's right even in difficult times that we don't break our promises to the poorest people on our planet.

"I will also argue there is a strong element of self interest, if we give up on the aid and trade and the development agenda, we will find the problems of those countries visiting on our own doorstep," said Cameron.

"Yes this is a difficult time to do it, but actually there is never a wrong time to do the right thing," said the British PM.

The crippling disease which normally affects children has recently resurfaced in the Republic of Congo, having spread from Angola.

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Health & Living

Ex-US football players report high painkiller use

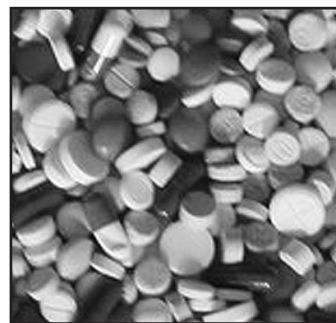
WASHINGTON (AFP) – Retired American football players are four times as likely to take painkillers as the general public and many reported misusing the drugs when they were playing, said a study released.

A total of 644 National Football League players who retired between 1979 and 2006 were surveyed in the study, published in the journal Drug and Alcohol Dependence.

Researchers asked them about their health, history of injury and concussions, and current and past painkiller use.

Seven percent of former players, four times the rate in the general population, reported that they were currently taking painkillers, or opioids, such as morphine, Vicodin, codeine or oxycodone.

"More than half used opioids during their NFL careers, and 71 percent had misused the drugs," said professor of epidemiology in psychiatry



Linda Cottler at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

"That is, they had used the medication for a different reason or in a different way than it was prescribed, or taken painkillers that were prescribed for someone else," said Cottler.

The study did not reveal how many of those taking painkillers were addicted to them.

Offensive linemen were twice as likely as other players to take or abuse prescription painkillers during their playing

days.

"This group tends to be overweight and have cardiovascular problems, so they represent a group of former players whose health probably should be monitored closely," said Cottler.

The study also suggested 47 percent of retired players sustained three or more serious injuries during their NFL careers, while 55 percent reported a career-ending injury.

"At the start of their careers, 88 percent of these men said they were in excellent health. By the time they retired, that number had fallen to 18 percent, primarily due to injuries," said Cottler.

"Only 13 percent reported that they currently are in excellent health. They are dealing with a lot of injuries and subsequent pain from their playing days. That's why they continue to use and misuse pain medicines."

Australian doctor's surgery viewings cause stir

SYDNEY, Australia (AFP) – A top Australian medical body warned a renowned brain surgeon he risked turning his work into a "spectator sport" by offering people a chance to watch him operate to raise money for charity.

Sydney-based neurosurgeon Charlie Teo said he auctioned a day in his company as a prize several times a year to raise money for cancer research. The winner would visit patients with him and possibly watch him perform surgery.

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons said it was against the idea.

"We're not in favour of selling seats for surgery. We are not in favour of non-medical people being in an operating room just for the sake of viewing," said John Quinn, the college's executive director of surgical affairs.

"It does raise ethical problems about spectator sport if your like, about the ethical issues of confidentiality and privacy and the ethical issue of selling seats for public viewing."

Quinn said the days of surgeons performing before viewing galleries were long gone, with video technology now providing the best means of capturing live surgery for teaching.

"The more people in the operating room, the greater the chance of infection occurring and the ability to just come in and almost be a voyeur, and pay to be a voyeur, is ethically not very good."

Speaking to ABC radio, Teo said the viewings were conducted under strict hospital protocols that prevented the person from being close to the patient as any incisions were being made.

The person, usually a student interested in a career in medicine, watched the incisions on a video screen in the corner of the room, he said.

He said he took the ethical arguments very seriously, adding "it would be terrible if someone offered this item and patient care were to be compromised".

"The reason I do it is for the greater good of the community," he told the ABC. "To try and tell people brain cancer is not just a name or a disease... this personal experience allows people to see that cancer affects you and me."

Acai Berry (Euterpe oleracea)

The juice and berries of acai are an important food source for the indigenous populations of Brazil. Acai is traditionally served in gourd, and mixed with tapioca, sugar and honey. Freeze dried powders, juices and supplements have become a very popular health food outside the region in recent years for its energizing antioxidant benefits.

Acai is a good tonic that can be safely added to a daily health regime to improve stamina, however there are many wildly extravagant health claims for acai health food products, that should be viewed with a certain amount of skepticism. Be sure to purchase acai from a reputable source.





ARUBA CARNIVAL

Meet the Mrs. Carnival candidates 2011!



On Friday, February 4, a panel of judges will choose Aruba's 17th Mrs. Carnival, who will join the other carnival royalty on stages and in

parades, enhancing events with her regal presence. The Mrs. Carnival pageant has evolved over the years from a casual and comic event, to a

spectacular show with stunning costumes and remarkable production numbers.

Continued on page 9

Fransjien Vos and Eunice Albertsz are the Children and Youth Tumberito 2011 Festival winners



In a packed Entertainment Center Fransjien Vos won the Child Tumberito crown while Eunice Albertsz won in the Youth category. The festival was in honor of Mrs. Anna Elisabeth "Mickey" Gravenhorst. Photo above shows the winners and Mickey Gravenhorst posing for a photo.



Prepare your body for the Carnival season

Comfort Healthcare presents three innovative products during Carnival program "DenDje"



A chronic ailment resulting from participating in Carnival parades is aching feet, often the result of uncomfortable shoes, long hours of pressure on the feet, compounded by hangovers and fatigue. Carnival season demands a great deal of energy and stamina to dance through the streets along the various routes, or spend long hours of standing while attending Tumba, Calypso & Road-march contests, or Queen and Prince and Pancho elections.

During the Carnival program "Den Dje" Comfort Healthcare presented 3 products which are ideal to relieve these common complaints. Comfort Healthcare has a digital foot scanning system, the Aetrex. Customers simply step on the scanner; using thousands of barometric sensors and patented infrared foot scanning technology, their feet will receive a complete mapping, or blueprint, in less than 30 seconds. With the result of this scan, a customer can buy Aetrex Lynco Orthotics, which can be placed inside of any pair of shoes and precisely fit their feet to make their footwear considerably more

comfortable. Aetrex Lynco Orthotics stabilizes and cushions the back of the foot. It can be worn in any type of shoe, (especially boots) and you can stand, walk, and jump through whole Carnival parades in comfort, without suffering the consequences.

Introduction of the slimming panty caused a sensation among the women attending the event. The panty smoothes bulges while reducing fat, helps fight cellulite and takes centimeters from the waistline in just 21 days; ideal for this season. Just wear it under your costume or for any other Carnival event and watch your waists shrink down, as if by magic!

For fighting fatigue and hangover the natural way, Comfort Healthcare offers Solgar supplements endorsed by Dr. Carlos Viana. He was present during the show to provide ample explanation regarding the various vitamins and supplements which are available for special prices during this Carnival season.

Photos show moments of the presentation of the show "Den Dje" at Comfort Health Care

In Aruba's 57th Carnival, be kind to your ears. Use your ear plugs!





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Meet the Mrs. Carnival candidates 2011!

Continued from page 1

On Thursday evening, this year's candidates were introduced by Aruba Trading Company and Revlon, major sponsor of the Mrs. Carnival and 57th Carnival Queen Elections, in the Avon offices on L.G. Smith Boulevard. Presiding over the event was Rene Ridderstadt of the Stichting Arubaanse Carnaval, or SAC, the foundation which administers all official carnival events.

This was an opportunity for the four queen candidates to become acquainted with the SAC staff which will organize and produce their pageant. "Senora Carnaval" will be an attractive, mature woman who demonstrates she has the grace and proper carnival spirit to inspire her fellow Arubans to revel in the greatest party on earth.

This year's candidates are

Selsa Quandus-Maduro from Rainy Painky, Glenda Wolffe sponsored by Colombian Emeralds International, Mia Ras of the Pleasers and Teasers Carnival Group, and Angelique Stucker from the TOB Carnival Group.

Part of the introduction ceremony was a gift basket filled with Revlon cosmetics given to each of the candidates, which they will hopefully use during their appearances and the final pageant. Noted island make up expert and artist Andrew Curiel will be judging their maquillage; the winner will be the Revlon queen and receive some fabulous prizes.

THE MORNING NEWS wishes each candidate success during their campaign to win the title of Senora Carnaval 2011; may the best made up woman win!

by Rosalie Klein

Rosebella Illes presents her book to Aruba National Library



Recently, Aruba-born poetess and artist Rosabella Illes presented her newest book, titled "Spiel di mi Alma" – "Mirror to my Soul," to Director of the Aruba National Library, Mrs. Astrid Britten. It contains poetry in Papiamentu and is illustrated by works of various local and international artists using photography, acrylic paintings, drawings and mixed media.

Rosabelle Illes, born October 17, 1987, has been writing poetry since she was 6-years-old. For a time, most of her works were dedicated to family members and composed for special occasions. At the age of 12, she discovered her spiritual nature and began to understand more complex concepts, resulting in more thoughtful, deeper writings. As she continued to develop spiritually she produced her first book titled "Beyond Insanity," which was published in 2005.

After a successful presentation of her current work in 2010 at the Aruba Surfside Marina, Rosabella traveled to Curaçao where she donated

her book at the Curacao Museum. Introduction and kudos by Curaçao writer Roland Colastica and artist Crisen Schorea, resulted in a well-attended event where the people were charmed by Rosabella and her work.

Her books "Beyond Insan-

ity" and "Spiel di mi Alma" are available at Van Dorp Dakota, Antraco on the L.G. Smith Boulevard and The Plaza Bookshop.

For delivery, interested parties may call tel. 593-0980.

CARNIVAL SCHEDULE

Main Events 2011

FRI. JAN. 28	CARNAVAL HAPPY HOUR PLACE: PENDING
SAT. JAN 29 7:30 P.M.	ARUBA'S 41ST GRAND TUMBA CONTEST 2011 PLACE: ARUBA ENTERTAINMENT CENTER
SUN. JAN 30 2 P.M.	PARADA DI BLAAS (BALLOON PARADE) SANNICOLAS
MON., JAN 31 7:30 P.M.	PRE-FINALS CALYPSO & ROADMARCH CONTEST 2011 PLACE: JOE LAVEIST SPORTPARK IN SAN NIC.
FRI. FEBR 4 7:30 P.M.	ARUBA'S 17TH MRS. CARNAVAL ELECTION PLACE: ARUBA ENTERTAINMENT CENTER
SAT. FEBR 5 7:30 P.M.	GRAND FINAL CALYPSO & ROADMARCH CONTEST 2011 PLACE: JOE LAVEIST SPORTPARK IN SAN NIC.

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COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. ___ carte: 2 wds.
4. Seed coat
8. Dressed
12. Baking utensil
13. Commanded
14. Possess
15. Placed
17. First man
18. Public decree
19. Grows old
21. Guided
23. Special occasions
27. Delighted
31. Worship
32. Take food
33. Armed conflict
35. Golf term
36. Fumes
39. Amid
42. British sixpenny piece
44. Female deer
45. Charles Lamb
47. Freedom from conflict
51. Highest point
54. Clutched
56. Repast
57. Small mountain
58. City in Oklahoma
59. Taverns
60. Story

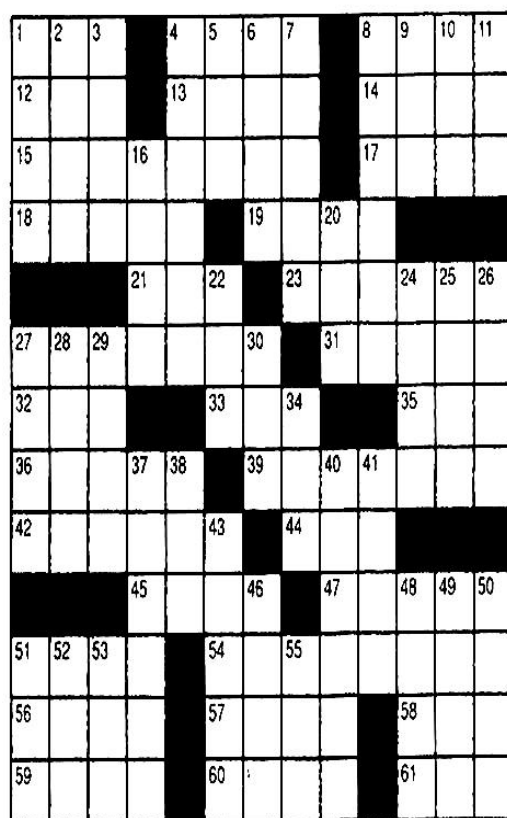
61. Punctuation mark: abbr.

DOWN

1. Church projection
2. Deposited
3. Opposed
4. Decreases
5. Rodent
6. Notion
7. Shelf
8. Pursued
9. Youth
10. Actress Gardner
11. Political party: abbr.
16. California school: abbr.
20. Miss Gabor
22. Early morning moisture
24. Memorandum
25. Woody plant
26. Witnessed
27. Nuisance
28. Tibetan monk
29. Short jacket
30. Small amount
34. Bright color
37. Genuflects
38. Snakelike fish
40. Collapse
41. Sob
43. Correct
46. Opera melody

48. Cry of woe
49. Yield
50. Dutch cheese
51. French friend

52. 100 yrs.
53. Male
55. Everybody



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Sudoku



SOLUTION

8	6	4	2	8	2	1	5	9
1	2	9	9	6	4	6	2	8
8	2	9	1	6	5	4	8	2
9	1	2	8	4	2	8	9	6
4	8	6	8	9	2	1	2	4
2	9	8	6	2	1	5	8	4
9	4	2	2	1	8	8	6	9
6	9	1	4	2	8	9	2	8
2	8	8	9	9	6	2	4	1

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
 A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
 In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

Ford doubles profit in 2010



NEW YORK (AFP) — Ford said annual profit doubled in 2010 to its highest earnings in more than a decade, as the second-biggest US automaker posted strong worldwide results and paid down debt.

For all of 2010, Ford reported net income of \$6.6 billion, or \$1.66 per share, up 135 percent from 2009.

The earnings came in below analysts' forecasts of \$2.08 per share.

"This was Ford's highest net income in more than 10 years, as strong products and new investments fueled improvements in all of the company's business operations around the world," the Dearborn, Michigan-based automaker said in a statement.

Ford, the only major US automaker that did not take a government bailout during the financial crisis, reported its seventh consecutive quarterly profit, despite a large charge

related to paying down debt.

The company took a \$960 million charge in the October-December period for actions that reduced outstanding debt from core manufacturing and sales operations by more than \$1.9 billion.

As investors digested the weak fourth quarter, shares in Ford plunged five percent in pre-market New York trade.

"Our 2010 results exceeded our expectations, accelerating our transition from fixing the business fundamentals to delivering profitable growth for all," Alan Mulally, Ford president and chief executive, said in a statement.

Ford said it launched 24 new or redesigned vehicles last year in key markets around the world, including the redesigned Explorer, a mid-size sports utility vehicle, in North America and the new Figo in India.

Ford said it would raise North America production to 650,000 units in the first three months of this year, from 593,000 units in the 2010 final quarter.

Oil prices rise before US growth data



LONDON, England (AFP) — World oil prices climbed before the release of economic growth data in the United States, which is the world's biggest consumer of crude.

"Without any doubt, focus will be on the US GDP release today," said Filip Petersson, an analyst at SEB Commodity Research.

"The outcome versus (analyst) expectations is most likely going to decide where crude oil prices will end up today. A positive surprise could send Brent above \$100 a barrel even though we believe that the staying power at that level is limited.

"A negative surprise could release some more strength from Brent as several funda-

mental supports have weakened lately, for example temperatures have risen and Chinese product demand should be easing," Petersson added.

Amid high US inventories, OPEC kingpin Saudi Arabia this week suggested that the cartel could still raise its crude output to meet an increase in demand.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) could raise output to meet a "two percent" increase in demand during 2011, Saudi's oil minister Ali al-Naimi said.

Speaking at the Annual Global Competitiveness Forum in Riyadh, Naimi added that he expected average oil prices to be around last year's level of \$80 despite a recent spike towards \$100 a barrel in London.

Meanwhile the gap between Brent and New York has widened to a record, at more

than \$12 dollars, owing to the high level of crude stockpiles at the Cushing storage depot in Oklahoma.

"There's such a negative sentiment towards them (the Cushing inventories), everyone is clearing their positions, shifting across to the Brent," said Matt Smith of research group Summit Energy.

Smith also cited the poor US economic data out Thursday: higher jobless claims and disappointing orders of durable goods for additional pressure on New York crude.

S&P's shock downgrade of Japanese sovereign debt also fed market weakness, added Phil Flynn of PFGBest Research.

Standard & Poor's on Thursday cut Japan's credit rating for the first time since 2002, accusing the government of lacking a "coherent strategy" in efforts to ease the highest debt of any industrialized nation.

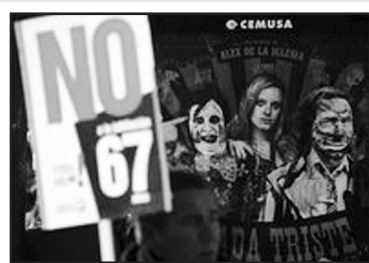
"Every time there is a concern about sovereign debt there's a bearish sentiment towards oil," said Flynn.

Spain agrees to raise retirement age to 67

MADRID, Spain (AFP) — Spain's government said it had agreed to raise the retirement age to 67 from 65, a bitterly fought reform aimed at repairing public finances and soothing markets.

Closely watched by markets as a sign of Madrid's determination to keep long-term spending on track, the outline deal was reached after one-and-a-half months of talks with unions and business chiefs.

An agreement with the



A man holds a placard reading "No to the retirement age at 67" during a demonstration by Spanish unions.

country's two major unions was reached in the early hours of the morning ahead of the cabinet meeting.

"The deal is important," Deputy Prime Minister Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba told a news conference after a cabinet meeting approved the scheme.

"It seeks to confront the great problem of Spanish society: economic recovery and job creation, that is the heart of it," he said on a day Spain announced a 13-year record unemployment rate of 20.33 percent at the end of 2010.

Under the outline agree-

ment, the retirement age will be gradually raised from 65 to 67, but with a list of exceptions:

-- Special treatment for women who stop work to look after children.

-- Retirement before 67 for workers in dangerous or arduous jobs.

-- Full pension at 65 for workers with 38 and a half years of contributions, and lower pensions for those who retire at 65 with fewer contributions.

-- Early retirement from 63 but with a lower pension for those who have at least 33 years of contributions. And retirement from 61 in "crisis situations" for those with at least 33 years of contributions, also at less than full pensions.

The reform will be implemented between 2013 et 2027, with an extra month of contributions each year for the first six years, and an extra two months a year of contributions thereon.

extra value	meals	Large fries and large fountain drink or 0.50	500-850
1 Big Mac® 6.79 and 3.99 meal 920-1160 cal. 540 cal.	3 Quarter Pounder® 6.79 and 3.99 meal 880-1130 cal. 610 cal.	5 Angus Deluxe 5.99 and 4.19 meal 1140-1360 cal. 790 cal.	6 Angus Bacon & Cheese 6.99 and 3.99 meal 1200-1440 cal. 820 cal.
2 Cheeseburgers 5.99 and 3.18 meal 980-1220 cal. 600 cal. 2 sandwiches	4 Double Quarter Pounder® 7.39 and 4.59 meal 1120-1360 cal. 740 cal.	7 Angus Mushroom & Swiss 8.99 and 4.09 meal 1200-1440 cal. 820 cal.	

new Happy Meal choices

A menu displays US fast food chain McDonald's beef burger menu, in New York. Beef prices have been increasing 6.1 percent for the consumer market linked to an increase in price in agriculture raw material. Large beef provider such as US fast food chain McDonald are expected to raise their price due to the increase. (AFP PHOTO)

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

EAR COMB REBUT
MESA ANIL EMOTE
ARTY SERE FIRED
PIE TREASURES
ERODE TAT
PESTS VETOS
CAGES HARE ARAB
ADEN TOTES IRMA
MERE ORES ONSET
SEDAN STILT
SET NESTS
REASSERTS RON
MOVIE NEAT TALE
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The Queen's offers an authentic taste of Aruba!



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef



Grandma's stoba with classic rice and beans and homemade potato beet salad

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.) Thus, eating out at the authentically Aruban restaurant, The Queen's, is very affordable, with a true taste of regional cuisine.

Owner Varella Innocencia confesses she opened her restaurant in Oranjestad because "I grew up with this, and loved serving people our island food. My father and mother operated the little restaurant across from the Americana, which some may remember, the original Arawak. I remember how much our customers loved trying the local food, and they especially loved the prices!"

Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, which is acknowledged on the menu with "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"—"Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak.

We also bumped into island visitors Jim and Callie from Michigan, who were eager to try island food, and were more than pleased with their venture

into local cuisine. "We will definitely return to The Queen's," they affirmed, "the food was delicious and the prices are more than right."

The menu sports a variety of steaks and tenderloin, fresh caught seafood, Caribbean lobster, and of course, one of our favorites, and what we consider a true test of local cuisine, "Keshi Yena"—"Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lent that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

Located next to the Harbor at the end of the Weststraat, The Queen's is open from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. They also have daily specials, aside from an extensive menu; made from whatever is in season.

We noticed a steady stream of islanders coming for lunch in the pleasant surroundings or picking up take-out containers; always a sure sign of a winner is where the locals like to eat!

Sunday: NFL tail-gate BBQ from 10:30 a.m. Buster's Garage in South Beach Center: One place for the whole family

Buster's Garage, a New York City landmark, made its way to Aruba about a year ago, and found a new home at the South Beach Center across from the Radisson Resort. Dedicated to the sports fanatic, the spacious but homey interior is the perfect place to keep up with your favorite team and have a great meal.

Fun for all the family, Buster's has typical sport bar fare such as chicken wings, quesadillas, calamari rings for munching while watching the main event on 24 giant plasma screens. Every seat is good seat for catching all the action. Open from noon for lunch or dinner, it has plenty of distractions for the younger crowd, including foosball, and a video arcade, so Mom and Dad can relax and enjoy their meal.

The moderately priced menu includes all your favorite finger foods and a great selection of local and imported beers. Customer reviews gave Buster's Garage 4.5 stars out of 5 on yellow-pages-aruba.com; one declared "my wife and I happened to stumble upon it—but what a find!" Another stated "Owner Rusty is so down to earth. The food was very good and the prices were outstanding for the High-Rise area. Aruba needed a place like this."

Buster's regularly organizes special events with live music. At 10 p.m. it turns into a cozy adult hangout; 18 years and over only allowed, with a DJ on duty nightly and boasting the only beerpong table on Aruba. Aside from a great place to root for the home team or your favorites during playoffs and championships, they regularly carry



all UFC fights & WWE events.

Buster's is a great place where island visitors and res-

idents mix and mingle; Monday to Thursday they close at 2:00 a.m., weekends at 4:00 a.m.

Two-headed calf wows villagers in Georgia

SOTK, Armenia (AFP) -- Hakob Avetyan (not pictured) holds a two-headed calf in the Armenian village of Sotk. The two-headed calf was born on January 25 in the Avetyans' cow house.

With two heads that give it four eyes, three ears and two mouths, the brown-haired baby cow has to be bottle-fed by its owner, Irakli Dzhgarkava, because its mother refuses to feed it.

Two-headed people and animals, though rare, have long been known to exist and documented.



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Germany sign Barbie for World Cup



The official ball "Speedcell" for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2011 to be hosted by Germany

BERLIN, Germany (AFP) – The German Football Federation (DFB) is planning to cash in on hosting the Women's World Cup in June with a football version of the children's doll Barbie wearing the national team's colours.

The German team are bidding to win their third consecutive world title at home and a 'fussball' edition of the popular children's toy is expected to hit the stores in football-mad Germany later this year.

The Women's World Cup kicks off on June 26, when the

hosts face Canada at Berlin's Olympic Stadium, and the final will be held in Frankfurt on July 17.

"There will be a Football-Barbie wearing a Germany shirt," Doris Fitschen, the general manager of the Germany team, told German weekly newspaper Die Zeit.

"It will appear in the shops at the end of March and will be aimed at our target group. We are aiming to attract young girls who we can inspire to play football."

Berlin shows off real-life 'Indiana Jones' treasures

BERLIN, Germany (AFP) – A treasure trove of 3,000-year-old giant birds, lions, and goddesses goes on show in Berlin with a past so incredible that it could rival archaeology action film hero Indiana Jones.

The story kicks off nearly 100 years ago when Max von Oppenheim, the son of a rich German banker, fell in love with the Middle East as a diplomat keeping an eye on British empire-building.

He stumbled across the ruined palace of an Aramaean king, buried in the desert, as German engineers toiled on the nearby Berlin to Baghdad railway line along what is today the Turkish-Syrian border.

After two digs, from 1911-1913 and 1927-1929, Oppenheim brought back many of his finds to Berlin where they were housed in their own museum.

Some statues were damaged during fighting between French and Turkish troops at the end of World War I. One goddess-like figure had her pleats and nose chopped off with an axe. But much worse was to come.

The museum was bombed in November 1943 and all artefacts made of wood and gypsum were burnt to a cinder. Only the basalt rock statues survived the inferno, but cold



water used by firemen fractured them nearly beyond repair.

"The whole museum reached temperatures of over 1,000 degrees (Celsius) (1,800 degrees Fahrenheit)," said Kirsten Druempel, an expert at Berlin Technical University's department of mineralogy involved in the restoration.

"And then it was suddenly cooled down with water and this put severe stress on the stones, which just exploded."

The fragments were recovered from the ash, but then disappeared for more than 50 years into the dark cellars of a museum in communist East Berlin, half-forgotten until the collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

In 2001 the painstaking work of restoration began. It then took nine years of detective work to fit together most of the 27,000 pieces of this giant 3-D puzzle, and breathe new life into some 60 priceless artifacts.

"Some 90 percent of what could be saved has been re-

stored," Beate Salje, head of ancient Near East section at the Pergamon museum, where the treasures go on display, told a press conference here.

Some pieces were as small as a fingernail, others weighed one and a half tonnes. One of the statues, a goddess, was broken into 1,800 pieces. One of the restored lions is made of 900 fragments.

"The work of restoration was never wearisome or a pain. It's the sort of work that requires a lot of effort, but it's what you dream of doing when you are an archaeologist," said curator Lutz Martin.

The exhibition, "Rescued Gods of the Palace of Tell Halaf", is open to the public until August 14. The Pergamon on Berlin's central Museum Island is expected, at some future date, to be made its permanent home.

In the meantime, the exhibition might tour the United States, Britain, and France, said Salje.

Von Oppenheim died a broken man in 1946, but "he always believed it might be possible to restore his statues," said Michael Eissenhauer, director general of Berlin's state museums. "It's a miracle," he said.

"For years, no one could imagine such an exhibition would ever be possible."

Putin cracks US spy joke

MOSCOW, Russia (AFP) – Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who famously launched his career as a spy, used an old secret service joke to demonstrate the levels of bureaucracy plaguing his country.

The joke in which none of the officials want to assume responsibility for arresting a US agent, came days after a bomb blast killed 35 people in a Moscow airport that critics blamed on lapses in security and bureaucratic corruption.

"So an American spy comes to Lubyanka," Putin told a government meeting in remarks broadcast on Russian television, referring to the headquarters of the Soviet-era KGB. "I am a spy and I want to turn myself in," Putin continued with a small smirk on his face.

"Are you armed?" the US spy is asked, to which he responds yes.

"Then you have to go to room number seven," a Russian official tells him, according to Putin.

There the US spy is asked if he is carrying communication

equipment -- another affirmative answer sends the US agent to yet another official's office.

In the end, the exasperated spy is asked by yet another official if he has an actual assignment to work on.

"Yes," says the spy.

"Then go carry it out and stop bothering people at work," he is told.

Putin did not make a direct link between bureaucracy and suspected suicide bombing at-

tack on Russia's busiest airport, but critics blame lapses in basic security on the Putin government's inefficiency and red tape.

Known for his tough talk and occasional use of secret service lingo, Putin served as a foreign intelligence agent in Germany in the Soviet era before becoming head of Russia's main successor to the KGB, and then president between 2000 and 2008.



AFP photo shows some of Will Ryman's "The Roses," a new site-specific installation on New York City's Park Avenue. The installation of 38 larger than life sculptures of colossal rose blossoms towering as high as 25 feet alongside 20 individual rose petal sculptures are featured between 57th and 67th Streets. The Roses will remain on view January 25 – May 31, 2011.

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Li shrugs off Chinese Grand Slam frenzy



Li

MELBOURNE (AFP) - Li Na Friday said she was largely unaware of the huge excitement in China before her historic Australian Open final, despite dozens of messages from well-wishers and her best friend calling up in tears.

Li said she hadn't read any coverage on the Internet after Chinese sites and newspapers were awash with news of her achievement and the country's tennis chief compared her to basketball superstar Yao Ming.

"I never look the Internet, what they say," she shrugged, when asked how she felt about being compared to Yao.

"Of course, not all the people say you are good or something. I never look at the Internet, I never read the news about me."

Today, Li will become the first Asian woman to play a Grand Slam final when she faces Kim Clijsters in the Australian Open title match, in what is being hailed as a major boost for tennis in China.

Chinese Tennis Association head Sun Jinfang called Li a "pioneer" and a national sports hero on a par with basketball idol Yao and champion hurdler Liu Xiang.

Li, 28, said she received more than 40 messages after beating top seed Caroline Wozniacki in the semi-finals

on Thursday.

"I turned on my phone and a lot of messages came. I think they showed the match live in China, so many friends watched. They just said congratulations.

"My best friend just called me. She cried on the phone and I was like, 'okay, take it easy, calm down'. I didn't know what to say."

Li also got a text message from her mother, who refuses to watch her daughter play live because she is too nervous.

"She said 'well done. I'm waiting for you at home'."

Unconventional Li Na's honesty and humour have made her a shining light at the Australian Open, and a big favourite with fans, but it has not been an easy route to the top.

Unwilling to be shackled by the Chinese sports system, leading to clashes with officialdom and a reputation for being difficult, she's managed to do it her way and now stands on the brink of a historic Grand Slam win.

She defied Chinese convention by getting a tattoo -- a red rose -- on her chest and employed her husband, Jiang Shan, as coach rather than using those provided by the China Tennis Association.

But now the trailblazing Li is being mentioned in same breath as China's bas-

ketball superstar Yao Ming, and has become a flagbearer for the growing sport of tennis in her giant homeland.

Li was the first Chinese woman to win a WTA title in Guangzhou in 2004, the first to make a Grand Slam quarter-final at Wimbledon two years later, and the first Chinese player to break into the top 10.

Her reputation as being difficult with Chinese media is hard to reconcile with her charming and sometimes off-beat press conferences at the Australian Open.

She has openly joked about her love for the financial rewards on offer, saying her reward for big wins was being allowed a credit card spending spree.

When she came back from a set down to beat Caroline Wozniacki in the semis here, Li said her motivation was "prize money".

Asked about how slow start against Wozniacki, she said it was because her husband kept her awake all night with his snoring, prompting laughter and applause from the crowd.

Bolt to open Diamond League campaign in Rome




PARIS (AFP) - World and Olympic double sprint champion Usain Bolt of Jamaica will open his Diamond League campaign in the 100m in Rome on May 26, organisers said Friday.

Bolt, also the world record holder in the 100 and 200m, will be joined by Kenya's 800m world record holder David Rudisha at the Olympic Stadium at the third leg of the 14-leg Diamond League.

It will be Bolt's first appearance in Rome and the Jamaican said: "I'm looking forward to test the reaction of the Roman crowd, whose love for sports is well known worldwide."

"I know that the Olympic stadium has a very fast track, as some of the best sprinters ran remarkable times there in the last 10 years. I hope to put my name on that list, hopefully somewhere on the top."



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Ukraine Euro 2012 host role in jeopardy - UEFA



NYON (AFP) - UEFA warned on Friday that Ukraine's role as joint host of the Euro 2012 finals was in jeopardy as a dispute emerged over government interference in the running of Ukrainian football.

The executive committee of European football's governing body wrote to Ukraine to warn it of the threat of suspension from European football unless it received a satisfactory response by February 4, secretary general Gianni Infantino said.

"If the FFU (Ukraine football federation) is suspended from membership of UEFA, it was the unanimous view of the executive committee that it would not be tenable to play the final round of the UEFA European football championship in Ukraine in 2012," the letter said.

Ukraine are due to co-host the competition with Poland.

A suspension would sideline Ukrainian clubs and the national side from European competitions.

UEFA's move followed a similar one by world football's governing body FIFA.

"Essentially it's about political interference in the running of Ukrainian football," Infantino explained after a regular meeting of UEFA's executive committee.

Ukraine football federation spokesman Sergui Vassiliev said his country had received the message loud and clear.

"The federation is not commenting on the UEFA letter but as a respectful member of this organisation, it will

simply follow it," he told AFP.

Europe's top international tournament is due to kick off in Warsaw on June 8 next year and end with the final in Ukraine's capital Kiev on July 1.

Preparations for the event have been dogged by doubts since the joint bid by the two countries was chosen by UEFA in 2007, especially over Ukraine's capacity to build up sparse and dilapidated transport and stadium capacity in time.

In April 2010, UEFA chief Michel Platini warned the Ukrainians that if stadium plans in Kiev did not advance they would lose their host status.

However, four months later he said the ultimatum had expired.

Ukrainian officials have said Kiev's stadium should open by August 24.

Infantino said it was too early to speak of playing the final in Poland or other alternatives.

"We have a fantastic event ahead of us, everyone has to pull together and not work one against each other," he added.

Government involvement in the running of football federations is frowned upon in FIFA and UEFA's rule books.

The problems emerged after a disrupted Ukraine football federation assembly last year, when international footballing officials received documents indicating pressure from regional and state authorities, according to UEFA.



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Ballack back as Leverkusen cut gap

BERLIN (AFP) - Germany captain Michael Ballack made his first start since September on Friday as his Bayer Leverkusen side defeated Hanover 2-0 to cut the gap on Bundesliga leaders Dortmund to eight points.

Arturo Vidal gave Leverkusen a 21st-minute lead with Simon Rolfes adding the second goal three minutes before the interval as Ballack, who had been sidelined with a leg injury since September, injected a little life back into the title race.

Dortmund can restore their 11-point lead at the top when they face Wolfsburg on Saturday.

Ballack picked up his in-



Leverkusen's Simon Rolfes (R) and Michael Ballack celebrate after the German first division Bundesliga football match

jury in the first fixture between the two teams in September and the man responsible for the crunching challenge, Por-

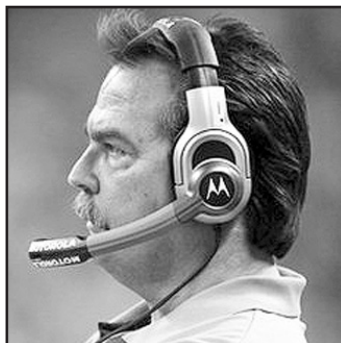
tugal's Sergio Pinto, faced him again on Friday.

"I'm rather satisfied with my form even if I'm missing a few things," said Ballack, who came off the bench in the win against Moenchengladbach last weekend.

"I need matches, but I am not an exception. Everybody is the same. I am not going to think about what happened, it's in the past. There was no intention to hurt me.

Despite his return to the starting side, Ballack still faces a battle to convince Germany coach Joachim Low to recall him for the friendly international against Italy on February 9.

Fisher out as Titans head coach



NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AFP) - Jeff Fisher, who is the longest serving National Football League head coach, is stepping down after 16 sea-

sons with the Tennessee Titans.

The surprise move comes less than a month after NFL owner Bud Adams said Fisher would be back to coach the Titans another season.

This marks the first coaching change for the franchise since it relocated from Houston to Tennessee in 1997.

Under Fisher's guidance, the Titans finished with just six wins and 10 losses last season.

Fisher had one year remaining on his contract.

Seven French players holding out on Cup bonuses

PARIS (AFP) - Seven players from France's 2010 World Cup squad have still not filed the documents required to forfeit their tournament bonuses, according to the French football federation (FFF).

"The affair will be settled," said FFF president Fernand Duchaussoy. "There are two more who have filed their documents, leaving only seven who haven't.

"I'm not sure that everything will be settled before France v Brazil (on February 9). I hope so. It's progressing.

"There's still a doubt over

(William) Gallas who wants to do a bit like (Nicolas) Anelka. But we're in talks with him."

Duchaussoy announced in November that the 23 World Cup squad members had agreed to forfeit bonuses worth an estimated three million euros linked to image rights at the tournament in South Africa.

Anelka then announced that he himself was going to distribute his bonus to help amateur football and a youth social work association.

"I've done my job, I went to Wembley with Laurent Blanc,

and we met with the players," said Duchaussoy. "I'm not going to spend my time on the telephone calling players until they file their documents."

The France team endured a disastrous World Cup that was marked by a players' strike and an early exit from South Africa.

Chelsea striker Anelka is currently serving out an 18-match ban after being sent home in disgrace from South Africa after a foul-mouthed tirade at then-coach Raymond Domenech leading to his teammates' infamous training ground walk-out.

Steelers fans save on Super Bowl

ARLINGTON, Texas -- Pittsburgh Steelers fans said their plans for saving money on Super Bowl trips to Texas include flying into alternate airports and using public transportation.

David Snedeker, a former Pittsburgh resident living in Florida, said he saved \$700 on a rental car by reserving a hotel room across the road from a rail station in Dallas, where he will be able to catch

a train to Arlington for the Feb. 6 game, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported Friday.

Douglas Shymoniak of Portersville, Pa., said he paid \$209 for a round-trip flight from Cleveland to Oklahoma City with a \$22-per-day rental car waiting to take him the 190 miles to Dallas. Web site Orbitz listed the cheapest Pittsburgh to Dallas flights as more than \$800 with connections Wednesday and more

than \$1,400 for non-stop travel.

Ryan Springer, 29, said he will be saving money on accommodations by using Web site couchsurfer.com, which links travelers with people willing to donate a couch or spare room to people passing through. He said the service can be "a little scary at first," but he has had good previous experiences in Dallas, as well as Vancouver and St. Louis.



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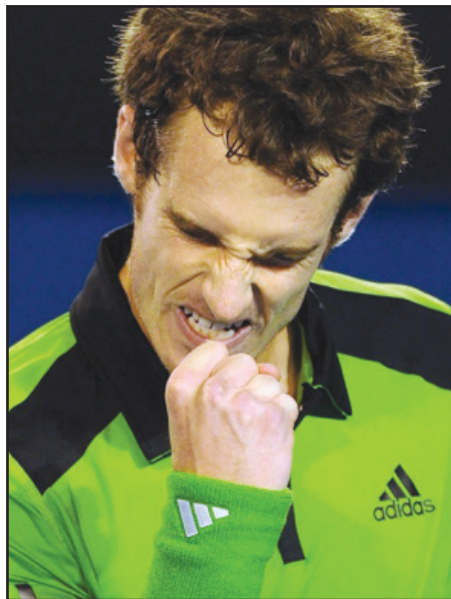
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Murray to face Djokovic in Open final



Andy Murray (L) Djokovic (R)

Kang leads at Torrey, Woods five adrift

LA JOLLA, California (AFP) — All eyes were on Tiger Woods, but it was South Korean Kang Sung-hoon, playing his second US PGA Tour event, atop the leaderboard after the first round of the Farmers Insurance Open.

Woods launched his 2011 campaign with a bogey-free three-under par 69 on Torrey Pines' North Course.

That left him five behind Kang, who notched six birdies and an eagle in an eight-under par 64 on the North Course.

Kang, who closed out his round with back-to-back birdies to claim the lead, had a one-shot lead over Alex Prugh and 2010 Rookie of

the Year Rickie Fowler.

Prugh posted seven birdies in his seven-under 65, including four in a row from the 15th to close his round while Fowler notched a total of eight birdies in his 65.

Chris Kirk was alone in fourth place on 66, while a group of 10 players on five-under 67 included Masters champion Phil Mickelson, South Korean Yang Yong-eun, Argentina's Fabian Gomez, Japan's Ryuji Imada, Aussie Marc Leishman and John Daly.

All of the top four players on the leaderboard played the North Course, while the 67s of Mickelson, Daly and Gomez were the lowest scores posted on the South.

MELBOURNE (AFP) - Andy Murray recovered from a set down against David Ferrer Friday to set up an Australian Open final against Novak Djokovic, where he will aim to break Britain's 75-year men's Grand Slam drought.

After a slow start, Murray won 4-6, 7-6 (7/2), 6-1, 7-6 (7/2) to advance to his second straight Australian final, as he aims to go one better than last

year's straight-sets loss to Roger Federer.

Sunday's title match will be the British fifth seed's third Grand Slam final overall as he seeks to breakthrough for his first major trophy against the Serbian world number three.

"In the first Slam final I played against Federer (2008 US Open), I didn't know what was going on, it went so quick. And last year was bet-

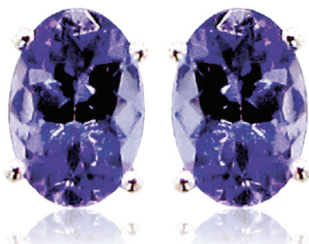
ter than before, and I hope this one going to be better than last year," Murray said.

Murray is bidding to become the first British man to win a Grand Slam since Fred Perry in 1936. Perry was also the last British player to win the Australian Open, in 1934.

Last year Murray was the first British man since John Lloyd in 1977 to play in an Australian Open final.

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